

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, EG, IS

SUBJECT: FAHMY ON PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL MULTILATERAL
MEETING

REF: CAIRO 9504

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. PLEASE RESPOND TO FAHMY'S COMPLAINT REFTEL BY CONVEYING
POINTS BELOW IN MY NAME.

2. MY COMMENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON EXPLORING POS-
SIBILITIES FOR PERHAPS A MORE INFORMAL MEETING THAN A
RECONVENING OF THE FULL GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS IN NO WAY
INTENDED TO CHANGE WHAT I HAVE SAID EARLIER ABOUT A
POSSIBLE TIMETABLE FOR CONTINUING OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORT.
WE WERE AND REMAIN PREPARED TO RECONVENE GENEVA TOWARD THE
END OF NOVEMBER. I HAVE REPORTED TO YOU, HOWEVER, MR.

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GROMYKO'S NEGATIVE COMMENTS TO ME ON THIS SCORE.

THINKING THAT PERHAPS HE WAS PLAYING GAMES WITH ME, I WANTED TO THROW ANOTHER IDEA IN THE POT AND NOT LEAVE THE SOVIETS IN A POSITION TO BLOCK MATTERS WHILE PUTTING THE BLAME ON US. SHOULD SUCH AN INFORMAL MEETING MATERIALIZE, WE WOULD LOOK AT IT AS A STAGE TOWARD GENEVA, NOT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT TO ME FOR SOME TIME THAT, AS WE MOVED FORWARD TOWARD DISCUSSION OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA OR THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS, WE WOULD HAVE TO FIND A WAY OF DISCUSSING WITH THE PARTIES HOW THE NEGOTIATION MIGHT BE MANAGED SO AS TO AVOID IMMEDIATE STALEMATE. WE ARE ALL KEENLY AWARE THAT FAILURE TO THINK THIS THROUGH IN ADVANCE COULD BLOCK THE NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY STAGE, WHILE SOME CARE IN DEFINING AND PHASING THE AGENDA MIGHT PERMIT US TO CONTINUE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME ASPECTS OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WHILE ALSO ENJOYING THE ADVANTAGES OF SETTING OUR SIGHTS ON AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

3. AS I HAVE DEALT WITH THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN THE ENERGY FIELD, I HAVE COME MORE CLEARLY JUST RECENTLY TO SEE THAT THERE COULD BE ADVANTAGES IN A PLANNING GROUP OR SOMETHING OF THAT KIND TO WORK ON THE ISSUES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO RECONVENING THE FULL GENEVA CONFERENCE. THIS COULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF REFLECTING POSITIVE MOVEMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THE PRESENT CONVENORS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITHOUT AROUSING THE EXPECTATIONS THAT A FULL CONFERENCE WOULD AROUSE BEFORE THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO BEGIN FULFILLING SOME OF THOSE EXPECTATIONS.

4. WHAT IS SAID IN MY SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIMPLY REFLECTED MY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO FIND WAYS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS IN A MORE CONCENTRATED AND SYSTEMATIC WAY. I HAD IN MIND NO MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL THAN THAT, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THIS PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS AN IMPORTANT ONE, BUT THE PRESS GAVE MORE ATTENTION TO THAT ONE SENTENCE THAN IT SHOULD HAVE. THE MAIN POINT WAS THAT WE INTEND TO CONSULT OVER THE COMING WEEKS WITH ALL CONCERNED.

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5. RE CAIRO 9549, WE HAVE NOTED AL-BAZ, ON BASIS OF ALLON'S STATEMENT TO PRESS IN NEW YORK, HAS REITERATED FAHMY'S SUSPICION THAT ISRAELIS WERE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE ON "INFORMAL MEETING" IDEA AND RAISED QUESTION WHY GOE NOT CONSULTED. YOU CAN SAY THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO CONSULTATION WITH ANYONE ABOUT INCLUSION OF THIS IDEA IN MY SPEECH INDEED THAT THE FIRST REACTION OF THE ISRAELIS WAS HOSTILE.

I BRIEFED ISRAELIS, THOUGH IN CONSIDERABLY LESS DETAIL THAN
I DID SADAT AND FAHMY, ON MY MEETING WITH GROMYKO AND
ASSUME THIS MUST BE WHAT ALLON HAD IN MIND IN HIS REMARKS
TO PRESS. YOU SHOULD TELL FAHMY THAT I AM MEETING WITH
KHADDAM FOR BREAKFAST TUESDAY. I SHALL SEND A REPORT
IMMEDIATELY. KISSINGER

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